3:Huntingford E-5 (1921-1928)1929 FLA Dorobo FLA

II.—Men of Sengwer.

Houses.

The Dorobo live in little shelters or huts (*kokongoi*, pl. *kokongoiik*; N. *kwiq*) built in small clearings in the forest; they are made of a framework of sticks stuck in the ground, and bent over, forming a domed roof; the whole is covered on the outside with leaves of trees and banana leaves, which are insufficient, in spite of the addition of an ox-hide on the top, to keep the hut dry inside when it rains. The upright sticks are strengthened by others tied across them with tree-rope.[1] The huts are oblong, with rounded ends, and are of the following average dimensions:—Height, 5 ft. 10 ins.; width, 7 ft. 6 ins.; length, 11 ft. They are occupied for two or three months, after which they become verminous and "full of fleas," when the family moves to a fresh site. Two to four people live in one hut. One group of huts we saw contained two huts, and had contained a third which had been pulled down. The huts are divided into two parts, the sleeping place (*ntilio*, N.) and the fire-place, which are separated by two or three poles laid across the floor of the hut, on the side of which are laid ox-hides (*mostoli*; N. *mosioli*), upon which the occupants sit and sleep; at night they cover themselves with skins. In the other half of the hut is the door (*kwobet*, N.), about 2 ft. high. Some huts have two doors, opposite each other. Between the door and the sleeping-place is the hearth (*soli*, N.), consisting of two or three smallish stones set on the floor. A loft (*saiset*, N.) is sometimes made in this part of the hut, extending across the width, and ending at the beginning of the sleeping-place. The loft is about 2 ft. 6 ins. above the floor, and is made of thin sticks supported on thicker cross-sticks, and tied together with tree-rope. Upon it are kept firewood and elevsine grain (Text-figs. 30-32). The only household utensils are a small banana (*sulkutiet*) about 14 ins. long, made of a bush-buck's tail fastened to a thin wooden handle, for sweeping the floor; "water jars" (*saigat*) made of a hollowed piece of bamboo about 15 ins. wide and 2 ft. 6 ins. long; a grindstone (*kitlo*, N.) made of granite, for sharpening knives, and for grinding elevsine grain. Gourds and earthenware pots are obtained from the Dorobi; the Dorobo have no stools. Fire is produced by means of fire-sticks (*pirsat*; N. *pirsat*) (Text-figs. 33a, 33b). A thin stick of the sharuan tree (*Ki.*)[2] about 15 ins. long and ½ in. thick, is stood upright on a stick of cedar (*mutit*) about 30 ins. long and 1 in. wide. The thin stick is called *pirsat*, the cedar stick *tumwet*. The *pirsat* is held between the palms of the hands, and the hands are rapidly rubbed together, beginning at the top of the *pirsat* and working downwards (Pl. XXIII, Fig. 2). Thin dry rotted bark fire is obtained; the *pirsat* drills a hole in the *tumwet*, and the heated wood-dust thus produced falls on to a bark-blade which is placed underneath. When sufficient heat is obtained it is laid on a small bundle of tinder (*saigat ilit gwan*) or fibre of the *gutiroit* tree), and blown till the tinder kindles.

[1] Tree-sp. [2] *Senegalia senegal*. [3] *Acacia* sp.